



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 20-1135

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0781
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Buck

Date: January 30, 2020
Bill Status: House Education
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Bill Topic: REPLACE HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES ASSESSMENT

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure, State Transfer, TABOR Refund, Local Government, School District

The bill eliminates the high school social studies test in public schools and requires instead that all graduating seniors take the U.S. citizenship test. The bill reduces state expenditures by eliminating high school social studies tests and increases expenditures by adding the U.S. citizenship test.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the state administers a state assessment in social studies one time each in elementary, middle, and high school. Beginning in the 2021-22 school year, the bill eliminates the social studies test in high school. The bill requires that the Colorado Department of Education, in collaboration with local education providers, instead administer the United States Citizenship test established by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The citizenship test must be administered to all high school students during the year in which a student is scheduled to graduate.

State Expenditures

The bill eliminates an assessment that under current law is administered in a representative sample of high schools at least once every three years. This bill adds the requirement that the citizenship test be administered to all high school students prior to graduation. The bill will reduce state expenditures for the social studies test and increase state expenditures for administration of the U.S. citizenship test, resulting in no net change to state expenditures.

The bill increases the total number of social studies tests in high school. The current social studies test is only administered once every three years; the U.S. citizenship test must be administered to all seniors every year. The fundamental activities, deliverables and services associated with the high school social studies assessment as performed by the Assessment Division in CDE are not

anticipated to change as a result of substituting an annual U.S. citizenship test for a social studies test that is administered every three years. The division must still collect data, develop training and administration materials, manage updates and tracking within vendor systems, and develop individual and district/school aggregated reports. Additional staff time is also required for Information Management Systems to incorporate summary results of the citizenship test into accountability calculations, and to update existing data infrastructure and reporting systems and templates.

School District

The bill increases workload and costs for public high schools to ensure that students in the final year of graduation take the citizenship test.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2020, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2020, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education